

Forest Management Partnership Proposal

Tree Farm Licences

Discussion Paper

Ministry of Forests

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I. INTRODUCTION

The 1983-1988 Five Year Forest and Range Resource Program reads in part "The provincial economy, and the forest sector in particular, is showing signs of recovery from the recession; a recession which has had a devastating impact on employment, the financial health of the forest industry, and the government's ability to finance the programs and services currently in place. It is in this context that the priorities for the Ministry of Forests have been set: to reduce the size of the Ministry, to increase the role of the private sector, and to aid, enhance, and support the economic recovery in the forest sector to the greatest possible degree."

The purpose of this discussion paper is to explore what opportunities are available to increase the role of the private sector by assignment of more responsibility and accountability for management of certain types of harvesting agreements. The approach can be viewed as a partnership management process that is earned by licensees through demonstrated performance of forest, range and recreation management activities. This approach will provide for public accountability through a public involvement process. The concept will be explored for all tenures. The process will begin with the Tree Farm Licence agreements since partnership management was one of the primary criteria for establishing this type of tenure over 30 years ago.

The intent of a partnership management agreement on T.F.L.s will be to improve overall forest management on the licence area, as well as offer both monetary and staff productivity efficiencies to the Forest Service and industry.

II. ELIGIBILITY

All Tree Farm Licence holders will be eligible for the additional "partnership agreement". The agreement will not be an automatic right to be included in all T.F.L. agreements, but will be an earned privilege gained through past performance. A company must have displayed a strong commitment to sound forest management practices and also displayed an integrated approach to the management of all resources on the T.F.L.

Participation in this programme will be voluntary and must be requested by the Licence holder. It is proposed that a formal subsidiary agreement will be signed by both parties.

III. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The following is a brief listing of some major T.F.L. management activities with comments relating to the transfer of responsibility to the T.F.L. Licensee. Where responsibility is proposed for delegation to the licensee, there would be no consideration for additional reimbursement under Section 88 or the appraisal system to cover the costs associated with the added responsibility.

<u>Function or Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Responsibility and Accountability</u>
1. Management & Working Plan	Present procedures for submission and review via the Regional Manager and subsequent approval by the Chief Forester to continue. The management and working plan will require modification to reflect the additional management commitments and operational standards.
2. Development Plan	Two options are proposed. <u>Option (a)</u> Present procedures for submission and annual update to the District Manager for referral and approval to continue. Where required, on-site inspections to be scheduled to discuss response to the development plan referrals. <u>Option (b)</u> Where the licensees capabilities permit, the referral process will be delegated. The licensee would be responsible for referral of the development plan to other resource agencies. The plan, together with the comments from the other agencies, would then be submitted to the District Manager for approval.
3. Annual Report	The licensee will continue to submit an annual report to the Regional Manager summarizing activities and proposals. The licensee would be required to present the annual report results and planned activities for the future to the public via a public meeting.

III. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY (cont'd)

<u>Function or Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Responsibility and Accountability</u>
4. Cutting Permit & Cutting Boundary Approval	Providing the cutting permit application and subsequent cut-block layout is in accordance with the approved development plan and are submitted under the seal of a registered professional forester, there will be no field check by the Forest Service. Where an approved cut-block requires a specific inspection by another resource agency prior to commencement to falling, the T.F.L. licensee will undertake this responsibility.
5. Major & Minor Amendments to Cutting Permits	Two options are proposed: <u>Option (a)</u> Provided the applications are submitted under the seal of an R.P.F. and are approved under the five year development plan, there will be no field check prior to approval by the District Manager. Areas not covered by an approved five year plan will be referred to other agencies by the Forest Service. <u>Option (b)</u> As in item 2, Option (b), an option would be for the licensee to undertake the referral where his capabilities permit.
6. Cutting Permit Inspections	No inspection will be conducted by the Forest Service apart from that provided by the audit procedures. The licensee will be responsible to submit a final inspection report on the completion of yarding for each opening. The report will deal with compliance of contract conditions and must be sealed by an R.P.F.
7. Recreation Site Inspection	No inspection will be conducted by the Forest Service apart from that provided in audit procedures. As for cutting permits, the licensee will be responsible to report annually on the activities carried out on each site.
8. Appraisal & Re-appraisal	No change to present procedures.

III. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY (cont'd)

<u>Function or Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Responsibility and Accountability</u>
9. (a) Check Cruising	Random sample check cruising will continue, however, no cruise design plan will be required as part of the cutting permit application, providing the cruise report is submitted under the seal of an R.P.F.
(b) Waste Surveys	The licensee will reduce sampling intensity to measure for cut-control only. All flagrant waste as determined by audit to be scaled and monetary billed by the Forest Service.
10. (a) Section 88 Proposals - Silviculture & Protection	Provided all proposals are in accordance with Section 88 Policy in respect to the acceptability of the project and submissions are made under the seal of an R.P.F., there will be no Forest Service field check for the purpose of verifying the prescription. Project costs will continue to be assessed by the Forest Service on the basis of expected cost for work of a similar nature.
(b) Section 88 Proposals - Engineering, Recreation, Inventory, Research & Planning	No change to present procedures.
11. Section 88 Cost Claims	The Forest Service will retain the prerogative to check and cost claims for Section 88 projects to ensure proper value is received for monies expended.

III. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY (cont'd)

<u>Function or Activity</u>	<u>Proposed Responsibility and Accountability</u>
12. Protection	
(a) Issuance of Burning Permits	No change to present procedures.
(b) Burning Prescriptions & Instructions	The licensee will prepare and submit all burning prescriptions and plans without joint slash inspections with the Forest Service. Provided the prescriptions are under the seal of an R.P.F., there will be no field inspection to verify the prescription. Also, there will be no on-site field monitoring of burning projects by Forest Service personnel. A post burning report will be submitted by the licensee to the Forest Service for each project under the seal of an R.P.F.
(c) Fire Control	The licensee will be responsible for "initial action" on all fires, regardless of origin or cause within the boundaries of the T.F.L. All initial action taken by the licensee will be reported to the Forest Service and standard fire control procedures will then apply. Financial responsibility for fire control measures will be handled in accordance with currently approved policy.
(d) Forest Protection Regulation Inspection	The licensee will be responsible to ensure compliance.
(e) Insect & Disease Detection and Control	The T.F.L. licensee will be responsible to undertake any detection program and control action necessary within the T.F.L.

IV. AUDIT

In assignment of more responsibility for management to the T.F.L. licensee, the Forest Service must maintain the ability to ensure that the Crown forest, range and recreation resources are being managed in an acceptable manner. To this end, it will be necessary to confirm clear standards of performance and develop a periodic audit procedure. While different activities may necessitate different audit methods (e.g. planting or utilization) it should be possible to provide for an annual audit in conjunction with the annual report.

V. PUBLIC MEETING

Increasing the licensee's role through partnership management will necessitate more importance being placed on the "public involvement" process associated with the Management and Working Plans and the Annual Report. More attention will have to be given to the Annual Report. In addition to its importance as the vehicle for the Ministry of Forests' audit, it would be utilized by the public to assess the licensees past year performance and assess planned future forest, range and recreation practices. The Forest Service favours increasing public involvement under partnership management and to foster this process, the licensee should present his annual report at public meetings in local communities associated with the T.F.L. land base.

VI. PENALTY

Penalties for not complying with the Partnership Agreement must be sufficiently severe to ensure the agreement is honoured. For this discussion paper, two options are suggested:

1. Monetary Billing (e.g. a schedule of fines)
2. Allowable Annual Cut Reduction (e.g. % of the yearly cut).

The Forest Service favours the cut reduction option. For a first infraction, a temporary annual cut reduction for a five year period would result. If the infraction continued, a permanent land removal from the Tree Farm Licence would take place.

VII. TIME SCHEDULE

This paper is being tabled as a public document for discussion purposes. It is requested that comments and suggestions be forwarded by October 28, 1983 to T. M. Apsey, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, 1450 Government Street, Victoria, B. C., V8W 3E7.